

## Duffle Bags for Children in Foster Care

### State of Utah

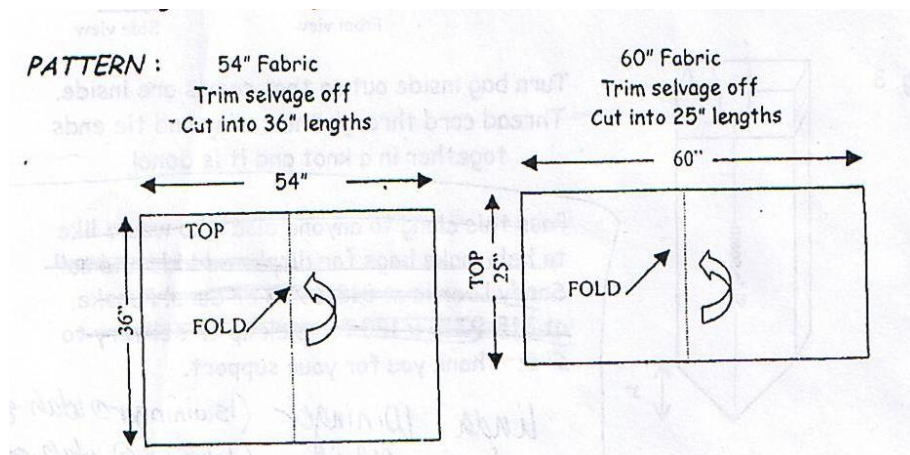
### Division of Child and Family Services

If you have ever seen a child who has been taken into foster care carrying all their belongings from place to place, you probably noticed that their suitcase is usually a *GARBAGE BAG*. Their world has been turned upside down and they drag around what they have left in a *GARBAGE BAG*, probably a visual expression of exactly how they feel about themselves. The State of Utah averages 2700 foster children (children in custody) at any given time, with 1200 more coming in each year.

Our goal is to eliminate *GARBAGE BAGS* as an acceptable form of luggage for these children whose lives have been disrupted. If we all pull together we can reach this goal.

A simple Duffle Bag to carry their possessions could have a significant impact on these children. It is an easy and quick sewing project whether you are a beginner or experienced sewer.

The fabric needs to be of a heavier weight (denim, poplin, corduroy, upholstery goods, etc) as it will be 'dragged' around a lot. Each bag will take a 36" length of 54" fabric or 25" length of 60" fabric and a 54-58" length of cording for the drawstring. That is it for materials!

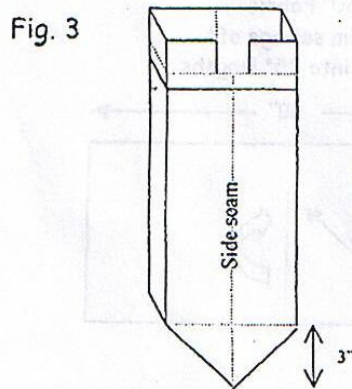
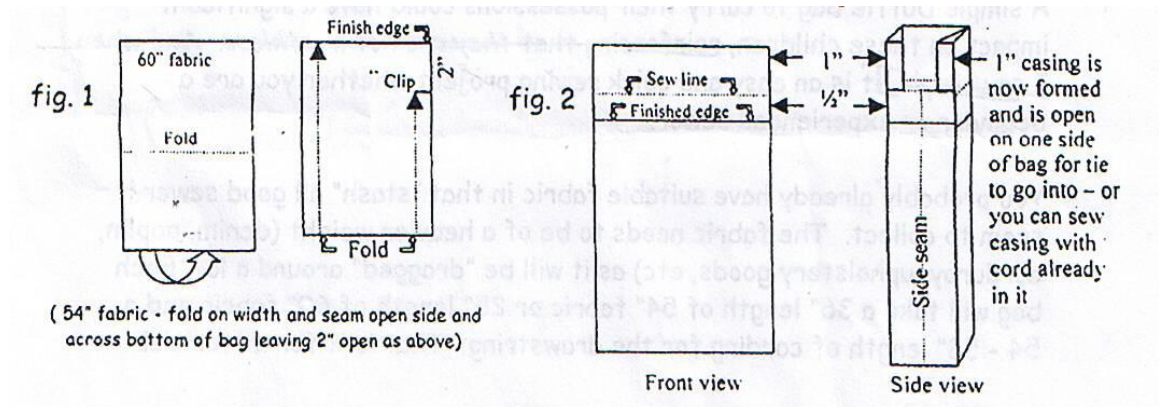


**ASSEMBLY:** For both cutting layouts (finished size @ 25" x 36")

Fold fabric pieces in half (right sides together) as indicated in the diagram and stitch ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance) both sides; start at the fold and sew completely to the end on one side and stop @ 2" from the end of the other side. Finish the raw edges of the last 2" by clipping at the end of the side seam and folding over and sewing a narrow hem or serging (fig. 1).

Finish top raw edge by serging or making a narrow hem (folding under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " ). Measure down about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from top edge and fold on this line; then sew around bag about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " inside the finished edge to form a casing (fig. 2).

Holding the bag with the side seam facing you, flatten bag so the two side seams are on top of each other. This will form points on the bottom of the bag, one facing you and one away from you. Measure up 3" from the point tip and sew a line perpendicular to the side seam edge to edge creating a triangle. Repeat on the other side (fig. 3).



Turn bag inside out so that seams are inside, folding the points down into the bottom of the bag. Thread cord through the casing and tie ends together in a knot and it is done!

Pass this along to anyone else who would like to help make bags. Thank you for your support.

Bags can be dropped off at the State Office for the Division of Child and Family Services, 120 North 200 West #225 or your local DCFS Office (call 801 538-4100 for the nearest office).

For questions, contact Linda Wininger ([lswininger@utah.gov](mailto:lswininger@utah.gov)) or Linda O'Brien ([lobrien@utah.gov](mailto:lobrien@utah.gov))